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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

28 March 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – White House Warns California Governor of Potential Russian Cyberattack

(U) The Biden Administration has sent alerts to Governor Gavin Newsom this week about a potential cyberattack carried out by Russia. In the three-page letter, the president warns Gov. Newsom that there could potentially be a Russian cyberattack triggered by the conflict in Ukraine. In the letter, the president also urges the Newsom Administration to increase efforts to prepare their cyber security team to make sure safeguards are in working order to protect California's critical infrastructure systems. In California in 2020, there were 47,000 cyberattacks costing \$1.2 billion, according to reporting. SOURCE: 26 March 2022, Your Central Valley News

(U) Santa Rosa – Man Allegedly Armed With 'Machine Gun' Arrested at Party

(U) Police said they arrested a man with a stolen fully automatic handgun as he left a large house party in Santa Rosa on Saturday. Police were called on reports of a large gathering at a rental property. Upon arrival, officers estimated over 150 partygoers were at the home, and several were seen driving away. During a search of a vehicle, police found a loaded 9mm handgun that was equipped with a "Glock switch," which allowed it to function as a machine gun. The firearm allegedly had 30 rounds chambered, and 30 rounds in the magazine.

SOURCE: 28 March 2022, KTVU News

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Southwest Border – Record-Breaking Surge of Migrants Expected at US-Mexico Border

(U) US officials are rushing to build more facilities and line up buses for new arrivals, as another record-breaking surge of migrants are predicted to attempt to cross the US-Mexico border this spring. The head of the US Border Patrol says he's getting ready for as many as 8,000 people to be apprehended daily, more than double the daily number of the 2019 surge under the Trump administration. That staggering number "will probably become the norm over the next 30 to 45 days," Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz said in a interview. There have already been 940,000 arrests this fiscal year.

SOURCE: 26 March 2022, CBS News

(U) California – Gunfire Near Border Patrol Agents Prompts Large Response

(U) Dulzura – Dozens of law enforcement officers responded Friday afternoon to a rural area near the US-Mexico border after Border Patrol agents "reported shots fired in close proximity to their location," an agency spokesperson said. No injuries were reported, and Border Patrol officials did not say whether the agents were believed to be targeted by the gunfire. The area where the incident occurred in Dulzura is near a permanent gun range, and footage from the scene appeared to show at least one makeshift shooting range had also been set up in the area Friday afternoon.

SOURCE: 26 March 2022, San Diego Union Tribune

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(U) NATIONAL

(U) Illinois – Man Planned ISIS-Inspired Attack on Mosque, FBI Says

(U) Chicago – Xavier Pelkey, 18, allegedly plotted with two other teens over Instagram to attack a mosque in Chicago and then move onto other mosques or synagogues until finally being shot by police, a recently unsealed court document says. It says that two hand-painted ISIS flags were found in his apartment when he was arrested in February, along with three "homemade explosive devices." The declaration details a plot Pelkey allegedly hatched with two other teens, one in Chicago and one in Kentucky, using Instagram and other chat services. The Chicago teen, the first one arrested as part of the investigation, told federal agents he had been talking to someone known as "Abdullah" on Instagram about a plan to gather weapons and explosives and meet in Chicago. The plan was to then separate children from adults in a Shia mosque and murder all the adults, the document says. The teen told agents the Instagram account name of "Abdullah."

SOURCE: 26 March 2022, Central Maine News

(U) Nevada - Cannabis the Top Reason for School Police Calls on Illegal Substances

(U) Las Vegas – School police have responded to nearly 1,400 calls regarding illegal drugs so far in the 2021-22 school year. Most calls — about 84% — are related to marijuana, according to Clark County School District (CCSD) statistics. The number of calls so far this year is approaching the total for the 2019-20 school year — 1,515 — and has already surpassed the total calls from 2018-19, when CCSD Police Department officers responded to 1,210 calls. During the 2020-21 school year, when remote learning was in place during the pandemic, there were only 60 calls. Information released by the Clark County School District shows 2,177 incidents of possession or use of marijuana this school year, including 167 incidents that involved repeat offenses.

SOURCE: 26 March 2022, 8 News Now

(U) Utah – Man Sentenced for Making Terrorist Bomb-Making Tutorial

(U) Salt Lake City – Murat Suljovic, 24, will spend a decade in a federal prison after admitting to making a bomb-making tutorial to help ISIS. Suljovic pleaded guilty in 2020 to providing material support or resources to terrorists. His plea agreement says Suljovic admitted to providing a bomb-making tutorial video and advice on how and where to carry out an attack to two unnamed people.

SOURCE: 26 March 2022, KUTV News

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Israel – ISIS Attack Kills Two and Injures Six People

(U) Hadera – ISIS operatives killed two people and injured six in a shooting attack yesterday in the Israeli city of Hadera, some 31 miles north of Tel Aviv, Israeli officials said. The attack — the second of its kind in a week — coincided with a landmark regional summit in Israel's Negev desert, where top diplomats from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, Egypt, Israel, and the United States are meeting to discuss security issues. ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack, which quoted a post from the ISIS-affiliated Amaq news agency. Amaq called the attack a "twin immersive commando attack by Islamic State Fighters."

SOURCE: 28 March 2022, CNN

(U) Mexico – Nineteen People Shot Dead at Cockfighting Event

(U) Las Tinajas – Gunmen opened fire on an illegal cockfighting pit in the community of Las Tinajas Sunday, local media report. The motive behind the attack is not yet clear but several criminal gangs operate in the region. Attacks on gatherings of rivals have become increasingly common. In recent

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months, gunmen in various regions of Mexico have targeted funerals and wakes as well as bars and clubs in their attempt to take out as many of their rivals at one time as they can. SOURCE: 28 March 2022, BBC

(U) United Kingdom – Politician Stabbed by Terrorist Thought Attack Was a TV Sting

(U) Leigh-on-Sea, Essex – Ali Harbi Ali, 26, told police he did a "good deed" by killing politician Sir David Amess and described to them how the veteran politician appeared to think the attack was a TV-style sting by his political rivals. Ali stabbed Amess 21 times after attending an appointment at a constituency surgery in Essex on 15 October 2021. On Friday, jurors at the Old Bailey watched videos of Mr. Ali's police interviews in which he laughingly likened his comments to UK television comedy, Little Britain and recalled another series Brass Eye, which specialized in spoof set ups.

SOURCE: 26 March 2022, The National News

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
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